GOD'S FAMILY

This book belongs to

.....

who was made a member of

GOD'S FAMILY THE CHURCH

by

HOLY BAPTISM

in ..... *Church*, ..., in the year.....; and having in this way become 'a member of Christ, the child of God, and an inheritor of the Kingdom of Heaven', was prepared by the Reverend ..... for

CONFIRMATION

and received the strengthening of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands in Confirmation by the Bishop of ....., on .....

in ..... *Church*, ...,

and received the Blessed Sacrament of

THE HOLY COMMUNION

for the first time on ..... in

..... *Church*, ...

You may sponge the cover of this book. It is strong Vellum Linson and washable

GOD'S FAMILY

A Prayer Book and Guide to Confirmation, Communion and Church Teaching

being a

Younger Version of *In His Presence*

by

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THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PRESS LTD

WALLINGTON SURREY

PRAYING IN THE MORNING

A new day is starting. We want to offer it to God. Begin the new day by kneeling at your bedside and saying

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done; in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

Dear Father in heaven
In this new day let me
Do nothing wrong
Say nothing mean
Think nothing unkind; but
Please help me to
Work well
Do things for others,
Play fair,
And be like Jesus in every way I can.
Please help me to remember Him hour by hour
All through this day. Amen.

ACTS OF PRAYER

When we talk to our heavenly Father we should not only ask for things. Our friends would soon get very tired of us if every time we spoke to them we asked for something!

Our talking to God should have at least four parts:

ADORATION — Praising and adoring God because He is so great, good and wonderful.

CONFESSION — Telling God the bad things we have done and the good things we have left undone.

THANKSGIVING — Thanking God for health and home and happiness and the hundred good things He gives us.

SUPPLICATION — Asking God for things for other people, and then for ourselves.

Such

A-C-T-S OF WORSHIP

help us to enter gladly

INTO HIS PRESENCE

with the Holy Angels and the Saints and Heroes of God and all His Family the Church down the ages.

PRAYING IN THE EVENING

Kneel down. Be still and think about Jesus.
Say your prayers slowly, praying every word.
Our Lord is listening, watching, very near you.

ADORATION

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.
Glory be to Thee, O Lord most high.

Jesu, my Lord, I Thee adore;
O make me love Thee more and
more.

CONFESSION

Dear heavenly Father,
I am very sorry for all my sins,
especially . . . (Tell God the sins you
have committed).

I intend most truly not to sin in these ways again. But I need Your strength to overcome my weakness. Please give me that strength and help me to use it and to remember that You are at my side helping me always.

THANKSGIVING

I have so much to be thankful for. Especially in this past day, thank You for . . . (tell God the things you have enjoyed, and do not forget happy times at home, your parents, good health, God's love for you. Sometimes say the General Thanksgiving from your Prayer Book).

SUPPLICATION

Now ask God for other people's needs and for your own. Your heavenly Father knows them but He wants you to tell Him in your own way. In the Prayer Notebook enter what you want to pray about so that nothing is forgotten.

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Then, very slowly, sum up all your prayers in our Lord's own words.

OUR FATHER which art in heaven
. . . for ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER NOTEBOOK

EVERY DAY *(parents, brothers and sisters, those you love most)*

SUNDAY *(especially Church, Vicar, Sunday School etc.)*

MONDAY *(especially Missionaries and Christians in other lands)*

TUESDAY (*especially Britain and her Statesmen. Unhappy people in other lands*)

WEDNESDAY (*especially school, teachers, friends, enemies*)

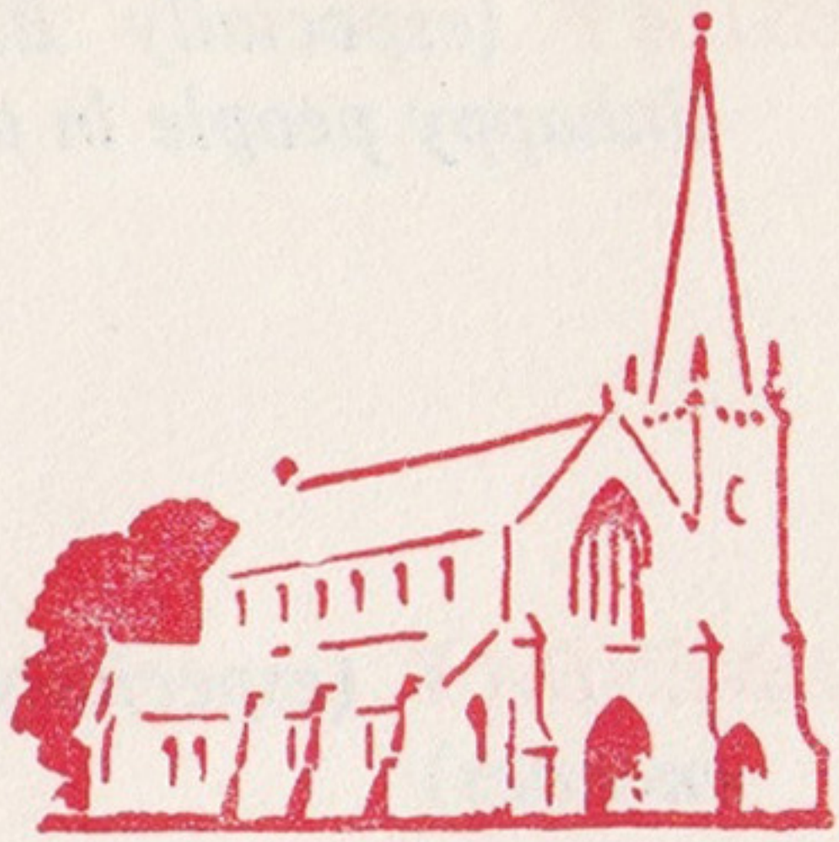
THURSDAY (*especially the sick, hospitals, doctors, nurses*)

FRIDAY (*especially old or lonely folk. Orphans. People who hurt others. Friday was the day on which Jesus was crucified*)

SATURDAY (*especially Peace, countries making strife, their rulers*)

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

This is A church
but it is not
THE Church.



Buildings are not the Church. The Church is God's great Family (or Society), part of it on earth, part of it in heaven. Jesus was born into this world to unite all who love God into one big Family, THE CHURCH. Today, the Church has spread throughout the world and there are Christians in every country. But many in every land are still outside the Church; and not even all members of the Family are good members.

Part of our work in the world is to alter that.

WHAT IS THE CHURCH FOR?

To carry on what Jesus began, to help all the world to love God, to make everyone a member of God's great Family, to do good to one another. Members of the Family show their love by worshipping their heavenly Father in Church; by going to Him in their prayers, and by obeying His laws. Jesus told us the most important ones: **'Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength; and thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.'** Learn that by heart.

HOW DO WE JOIN THE CHURCH, GOD'S FAMILY?

By BAPTISM (some call it Christening) in which we start a new life in this new relationship with God as our heavenly Father. The Prayer Book calls it being 'born again', and made **'a member of Christ, the child of God, and an inheritor of the Kingdom of Heaven.'** Baptism is the first of the two Sacraments commanded by our Lord. The Prayer Book says a sacrament is **'an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace given unto us.'** You should learn those words by heart. The 'outward and visible sign' in Baptism is water; always a sign of cleansing. The 'inward and spiritual grace' is the new life in His Family the Church which God gives.

If you have not been baptized you are not yet a real member of God's Family the Church, but just a great friend of the Family.

WHAT IS CONFIRMATION?

CONFIRMATION marks the time when you grow up in the Church and become more than a child in God's Family. Confirmation means made strong by the Holy Spirit. It is the time when you become a communicant and may receive Holy Communion.

By twelve you are quite old enough to know good from evil, right from wrong; the Prayer Book says you have reached **'years of discretion.'**

But to *know* what is good is not enough. To do it, and to keep from mean and evil ways, we need extra strength, especially as we begin to grow up and start our life's work.

That extra strength is given us by God at Confirmation. Sometimes we call this strength **'grace.'** It is God the Holy Spirit working in us.

FACTS ABOUT CONFIRMATION

WHY BE CONFIRMED?

1. Because it is in the Bible. Chap. 8 of the Acts of the Apostles says:

> Then Philip went down to Samaria and preached Christ unto them . . . When they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women . . . Now when the Apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: who, when they were come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Ghost. . . . Then they laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

2 Because it has been in the Church from the beginning.

Your Vicar, like Philip, teaches and baptizes. Then the Bishop, successor to the Apostles, comes to confirm or 'lay hands' on people young or old, just as Peter and John did in the Bible.

3 Because we need to be made FIRMer.

God strengthens us by the Holy Spirit.

4. Because ConFIRMation is the doorway to Holy Communion.

WHAT HAPPENS AT CONFIRMATION?

You do something. God does something.

YOU take on your own shoulders the promises made for you at Baptism by your godparents.

GOD gives you strength to keep them by sending the Holy Spirit.

WHAT PROMISES DO YOU MAKE?

Three very big ones, the same made for you at Baptism by your godparents.

You promise to try your best with God's help.

1. To give up what is wrong.
2. To believe what is true (about God and His world).
3. To do what is right.

The Prayer Book puts the promises this way: First, to renounce the devil and all his works. Secondly, to believe the articles of the Christian Faith. That means the Creeds. So you must learn by heart the Apostles' Creed. The Vicar will explain it sentence by sentence. Thirdly, to keep God's holy will and commandments. Amongst other things that means the Ten Commandments. You will have to learn about them too, and should study them in the Catechism.

These promises made at Confirmation are not easy to keep, so the Bishop lays his hands on your head, in the same way as the Apostles did, and you know God has come to help you, strengthening you by the Holy Spirit.

But our heavenly Father knows you are going to need still more help and need it regularly. So members of His Family the Church come week by week to receive the life of Jesus in the Holy Communion.

Our heavenly Father is glad when all members of *your* family, father, mother, brothers and sisters, come along together to join in the worship of God's Family the Church.

Your father and mother will often want to be there if you specially ask them to come with you.

THE CHURCH'S YEAR

You would be in a nice muddle if you did not know the seasons of the year, that spring follows winter, February comes after January, and so on.

You will be just as muddled in Church if you do not know the Church's year, which is called

THE CHRISTIAN YEAR

It follows the life of Jesus. This helps in remembering it and the great truths of the Christian Faith which His life brings before us year by year.

Before a baby comes the mother has to prepare and get the clothes and cot ready.

So the Church prepares and gets ready in

ADVENT

(which means *coming*) for the birth of Jesus called

CHRISTMAS

the loveliest time of all the year especially for families.

EPIPHANY

was the showing forth of Jesus as Divine when the Wise Men came to worship Him.

When Jesus was grown up He spent forty days in the wilderness in preparation for His ministry, and so

LENT

starts on Ash Wednesday and lasts forty days, when by prayer, Bible study and our rule of life we try to prepare for our work in the world and for keeping holy

HOLY WEEK

the last days of our Lord's ministry, which ended on

GOOD FRIDAY

when He was crucified. But death and burial were not the end for Jesus, nor will they be for us. They were a new beginning.
Jesus rose from the grave on

EASTER DAY

to live for evermore. Every Sunday, the day He rose, is a joyful memorial of His resurrection. For forty days He often came to His disciples, training them; then on

ASCENSION DAY

He returned to reign in Heaven. But the disciples, like us, needed strength. Jesus had promised that He would not leave them 'comfortless' which means strengthless but would come to them. He came as the Holy Spirit at Pentecost or

WHITSUNDAY

just as He comes to us in the Holy Spirit at Confirmation: then at

TRINITY

we remember that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, three Persons but only One God. On the next twenty-five Sundays we think of the wonderful things Jesus taught and did.

At intervals come the **SAINTS DAYS** when we thank God for the heroes of His Family the Church.

These are the Holy Days of the Christian Year. The world has changed that name and calls them holidays. We must make them **holy days** as well as holidays.

THE CHURCH'S COLOURS

The Seasons of the Christian Year, the Feast and the Fast Days, are marked in some churches by distinctive colours The vestments or stole worn at Holy Communion, the altar frontal, the markers in the Bible on the lectern, and the pulpit fall, the cloth which hangs from the pulpit book-rest, are changed accordingly. This is a help in remembering the progress of the Christian Year. E.g., when we come to Church at the end of November or the first Sunday in December we notice that the colour has changed from green to purple. That reminds us that Advent has begun and of its purpose.

Here are the main colours and their meanings:

WHITE (or CREAM or GOLD): The joyful Festivals, especially Christmas, Epiphany, Easter and Ascension. Also Saints' Days other than Martyrs.

RED *stands for* fire or blood. Whitsunday and commemoration of Martyrs.

PURPLE *stands for* penitence and preparation. Lent and Advent and times of mourning.

GREEN is the common colour of Nature, reminding us of God's provision for our needs. The non-festival Colour, e.g. the Sundays after Trinity, after the Epiphany, etc.

It is a good idea to turn back two pages to THE CHURCH'S YEAR and work out the colour for each Season or Holy Day.

LIFE IN GOD'S FAMILY
THE CHURCH

In a good family everyone has a job. Boys clean shoes and carry coal. Girls set the table and dry the dishes.

In God's Family the Church everyone has duties which are part of life just as much as eating and sleeping are part of life in the human family.

WORSHIP

Jesus went to His Church, the synagogue, every Sabbath. We must go to our Church every Sunday. That is our first duty, WORSHIP. When you have been confirmed the most important service is naturally the one Jesus Himself commanded, the Holy Communion, which is

THE LORD'S OWN SERVICE
IN THE LORD'S OWN HOUSE
ON THE LORD'S OWN DAY

and each family should be there together.

PRAYER

No father could be happy unless his children loved to tell him all about their doings. Our heavenly Father wants us to tell Him about everything. Our prayers are very important both to God and to us. Do not only talk to God night and morning. Many times each day send a little 'arrow prayer' of joy, or thanks, or need, speeding on its way to God. Your Vicar will, of course, tell you much more about every kind of prayer.

BIBLE READING

It is far more important to read the Bible, God's Good News, each day than to read newspapers or comics. Bible Reading is part of the life of God's Family. The Bible Reading Fellowship helps a lot. Ask your Vicar to tell you about it.

GIVING

No family can get on without money. Where is God's Family to get the money it needs? From the family—YOU, and every other member. In the Old Testament the Jews were told to give one tenth to God. So if you get half-a-crown a week for pocket money, you should put a tenth, threepence, aside for the work of God's Family.

SERVICE

Even the Head of the Church, our Lord, said He came not to be waited on but to do things for others. So Scouts and Guides have a rule to do a good deed every day. But that is a minimum. You will find that you are never happier than when you are doing things for others.

EACH OF THESE FIVE

WORSHIP — PRAYER — BIBLE READING

GIVING — SERVICE

must find a place in our

RULE OF LIFE

in God's Family the Church

Your Vicar will explain more about this.

THE CHURCH'S BOOKS

1. THE HOLY BIBLE

The Bible is the most precious book in the world because it tells how much God cares for us His family; how God sent His Son to this world to help us; and how Jesus saved us by taking our sins upon Himself and by dying for us on the Cross.

More copies of the Bible have been sold than of any other book—hundreds of millions of copies. It is by far the world's 'best seller.' It has been translated into a thousand languages. When first printed in English it was so precious that copies had to be chained.

But the Bible is not really one book but a library. The OLD TESTAMENT has thirty-nine books covering a span of two thousand years. It tells how God taught the Jews about Himself and prepared the way for the coming of Jesus. The NEW TESTAMENT is a library of twenty-seven books. There are four accounts of the work of Jesus, the Gospels; then the first days of the Church are recounted. There are also many letters written by St. Paul and other early leaders.

Every Christian should read the Bible regularly not only to learn about God, but also to let Him speak to them through their thoughts.

The best way to use and enjoy the Bible is through the Bible Reading Fellowship with its little booklets of daily readings. Your parish priest will tell you about the B.R.F.

II. THE PRAYER BOOK

The full name of the Church's other chief book is THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER. This means the Book of Prayer FOR EVERYBODY and that is exactly what it is—and everybody includes YOU.

It contains the Church's most important worship, The Holy Communion, and Morning and Evening Prayer for every day of the year. There is Holy Baptism (when you are made a member of God's Family, the Church): Confirmation; Holy Matrimony (because most people get married); prayers sick people need; and the Burial Service. There is much else, notably the Psalms, the hymn book of the Hebrews and of Jesus.

Don't borrow. *Bring your own.*

Some people think the Prayer Book is only for use in Church, and just borrow one at the door. This is wrong. Take your own Prayer Book to Church. But use it at home too. Read the Gospel for each Holy Day if you are not at Church, and say the Collect (see page 5). Then you are praying with the whole of God's Family the Church.

The Prayer Book is very venerable. Archbishop Cranmer translated much of it over four hundred years ago from the ancient Latin Service Books, and composed a lot more himself. Not a word has been altered since 1662. If, however, you are buying a new copy you can ask for the 1928 *suggested* revision, which contains the 1662 book as well as new sections.

THE CHURCH'S CLOTHES

The Vestments

HOOD ____ (A)

SURPLICE __ (B)

SCARF ____ (C)

CASSOCK _ (D)

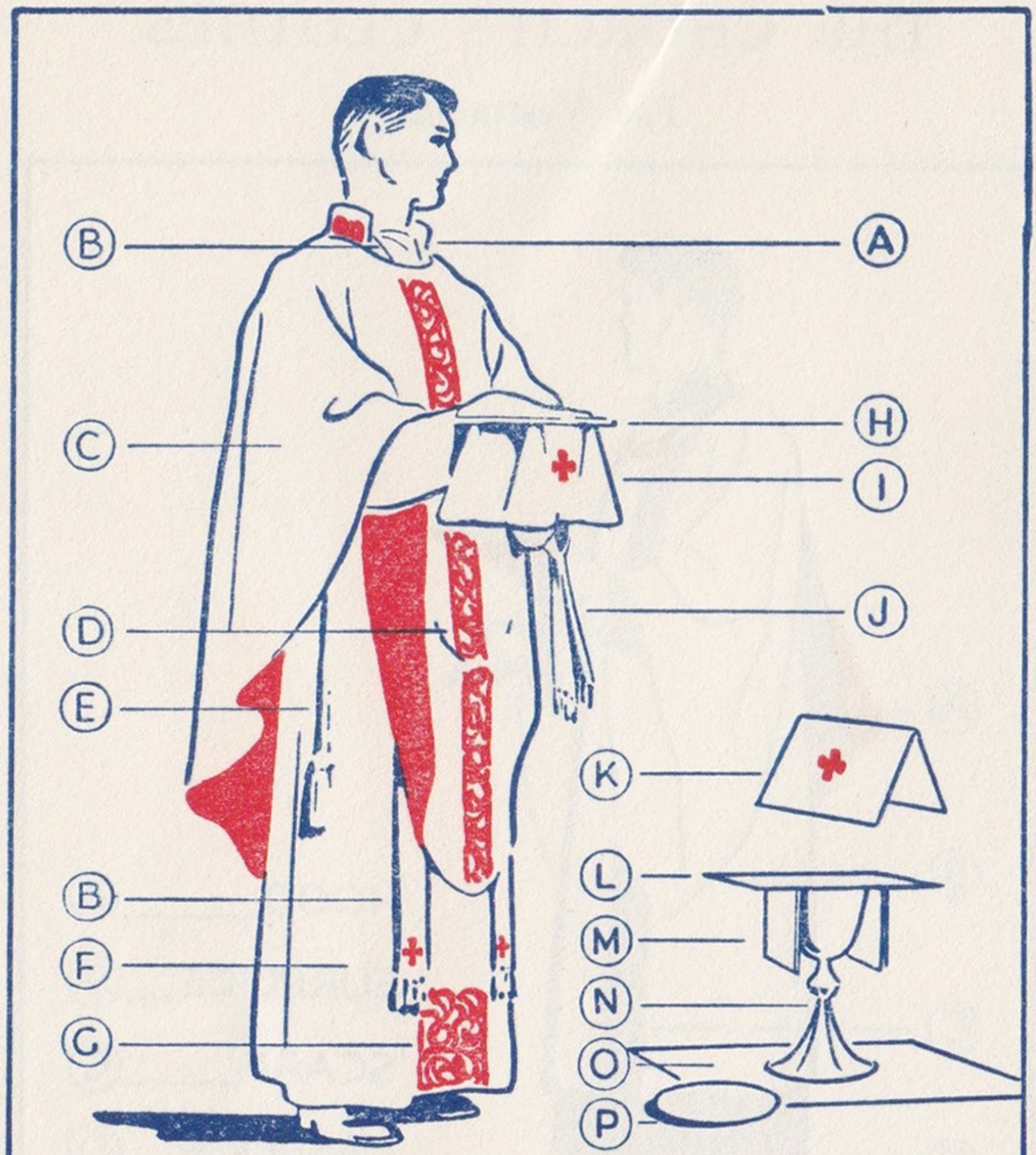
1. Priest in cassock and surplice, hood and scarf.

CASSOCK.—Long black gown once the daily dress of the clergy both indoors and outdoors.

SURPLICE.—Of white linen, reaching to knee. Worn by clergy, choir and servers.

TIPPET or SCARF.—Black, worn with hood by clergy at Mattins and Evensong.

HOOD.—Was a medieval headdress. Denotes university degree; college indicated by distinctive colours.



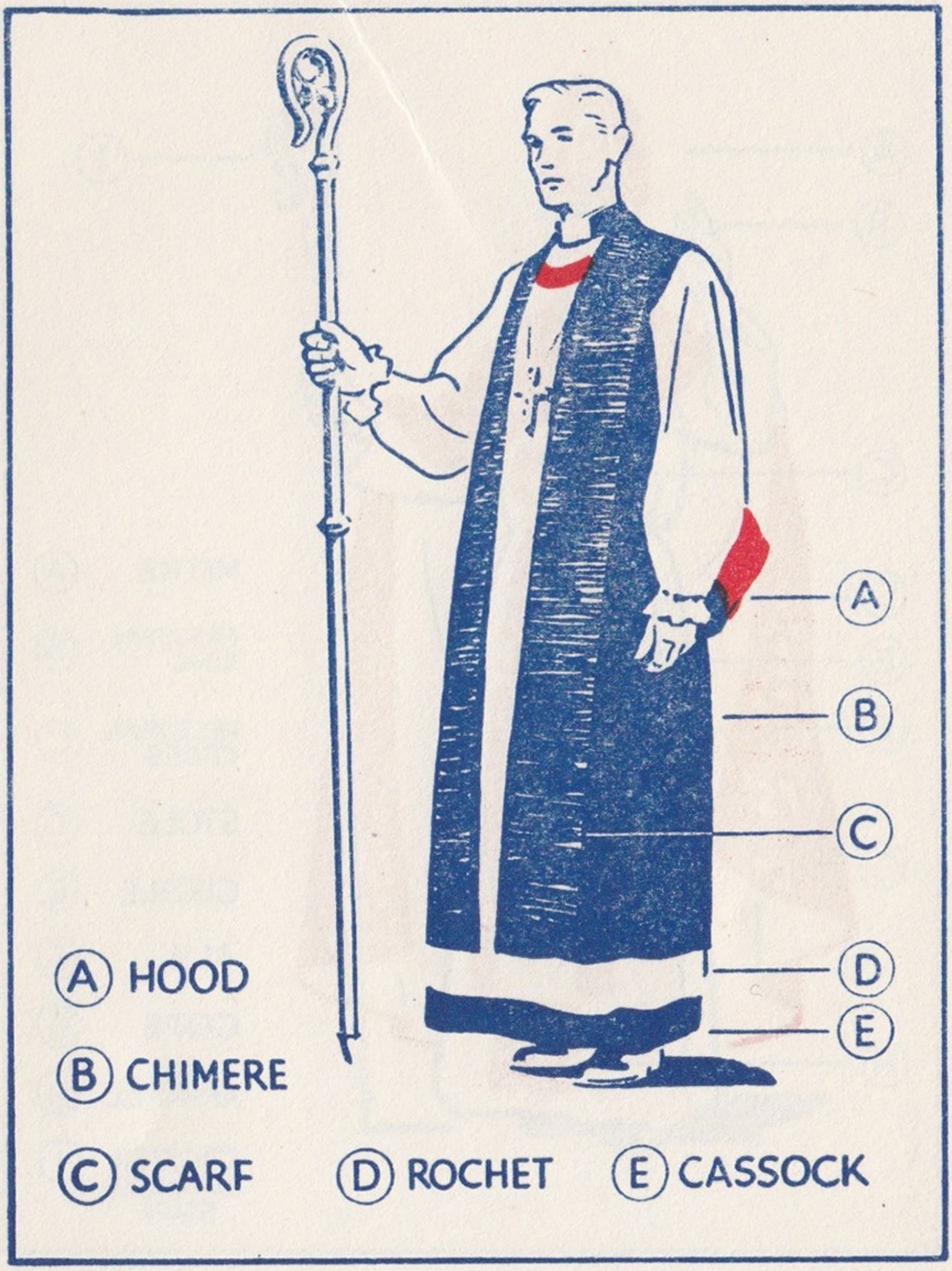
2. Priest in Eucharistic Vestments and showing Chalice, Paten, Burse, Veil, etc.

ALB.—Of white linen reaching to ankles. Derived from ancient tunic. Used with girdle round waist.

CHASUBLE.—Worn only when celebrating Holy Communion. Descended from usual outdoor garments of Bible times.

AMICE.—Once a neckcloth, now a linen square to protect neck of chasuble.

STOLE.—Once a towel carried on left shoulder. Worn by priest at the Sacraments.



3. Bishop in Rochet and Chimere, Hood and Scarf.

CHIMERE.—Long garment, black or scarlet, open in front, worn by Bishop over rochet.

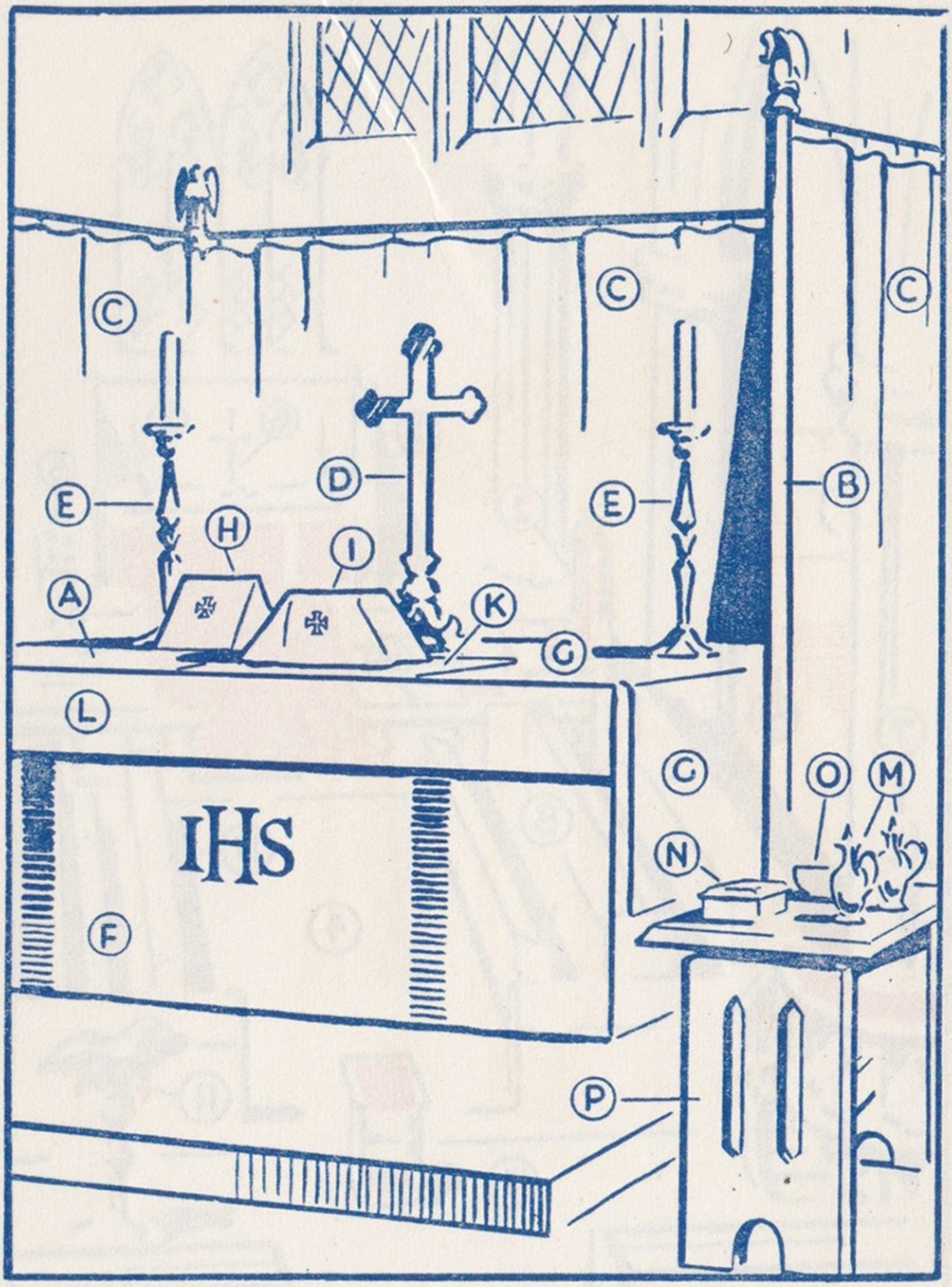
ROCHET.—Long white garment like alb but used without girdle.

Most Church Vestments have come from the ordinary garb of a Roman citizen. Fashions altered, but the old styles were retained for use in Church.

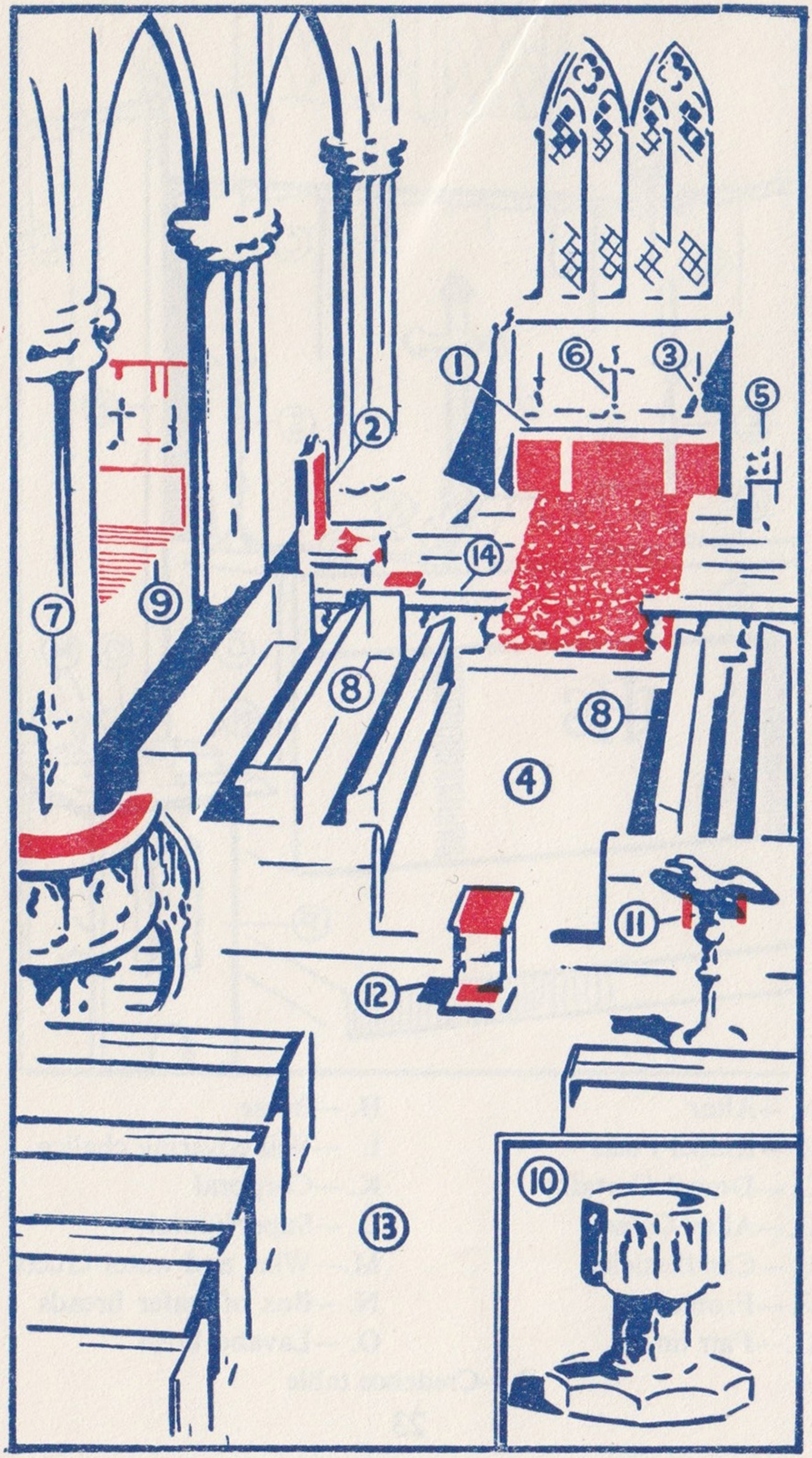
4. Bishop in Cope and Mitre.

COPE.—Once a long cloak, has become costly embroidered vestment worn by Bishops at Confirmations, Ordinations, etc. and by priests at Festivals.

MITRE.—Headdress of Bishop, tongue-shaped in remembrance of tongues of fire at Pentecost.



A.—Altar
B.—Riddel Posts
C.—Dorsal Curtains
D.—Altar Cross
E.—Candlesticks
F.—Frontal
G.—Fair linen
H.—Burse
I.—Veil covering chalice
K.—Corporal
L.—Superfrontal
M.—Wine and water cruets
N.—Box of wafer breads
O.—Lavabo bowl
P.—Credence table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THE LORD'S OWN HOUSE

and what is in it

1. Altar or Communion Table.
2. Bishop's Chair.
3. Candlesticks. Usually two on Altar showing Jesus is the Light of the World and the Glory of His people. Sometimes no candles, but a few have six.
4. Chancel. Where clergy and choir sit. Usually raised a step.
5. Credence Table. Where Bread, Wine and Water cruets stand.
6. Cross. The empty Cross is the symbol of the Resurrection of Jesus.
7. Crucifix. A Cross with figure of Christ by pulpit shows preacher he is to proclaim Christ crucified.
8. Choir Stalls. These are in the Chancel.
9. Chapel. Side chapel (or 'Lady Chapel' because so often dedicated to the Virgin Mary) is for smaller week-day services.
10. Font. Usually near door to show we enter God's Family the Church by Baptism.
11. Lectern. The Bible read at Services stands on this. Often an eagle, from text 'They that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength . . . they shall mount up with wings as eagles'—Isaiah 40, 31. Or a pelican, said to pierce its own breast to feed its young.
12. Litany Desk. Where Litany is said. It stands before entrance to Chancel.
13. Nave. Where congregation is placed. Means 'ship,' because Church is a ship to carry God's people across the sea of life.
14. Rails. People kneel at Altar Rails to receive Holy Communion.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

is the most important worship of God's Family

Because in **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

Jesus gives Himself to us, His own life and power, to put us IN UNION WITH (Communion with) Him, so that we can belong to Him and do His work.

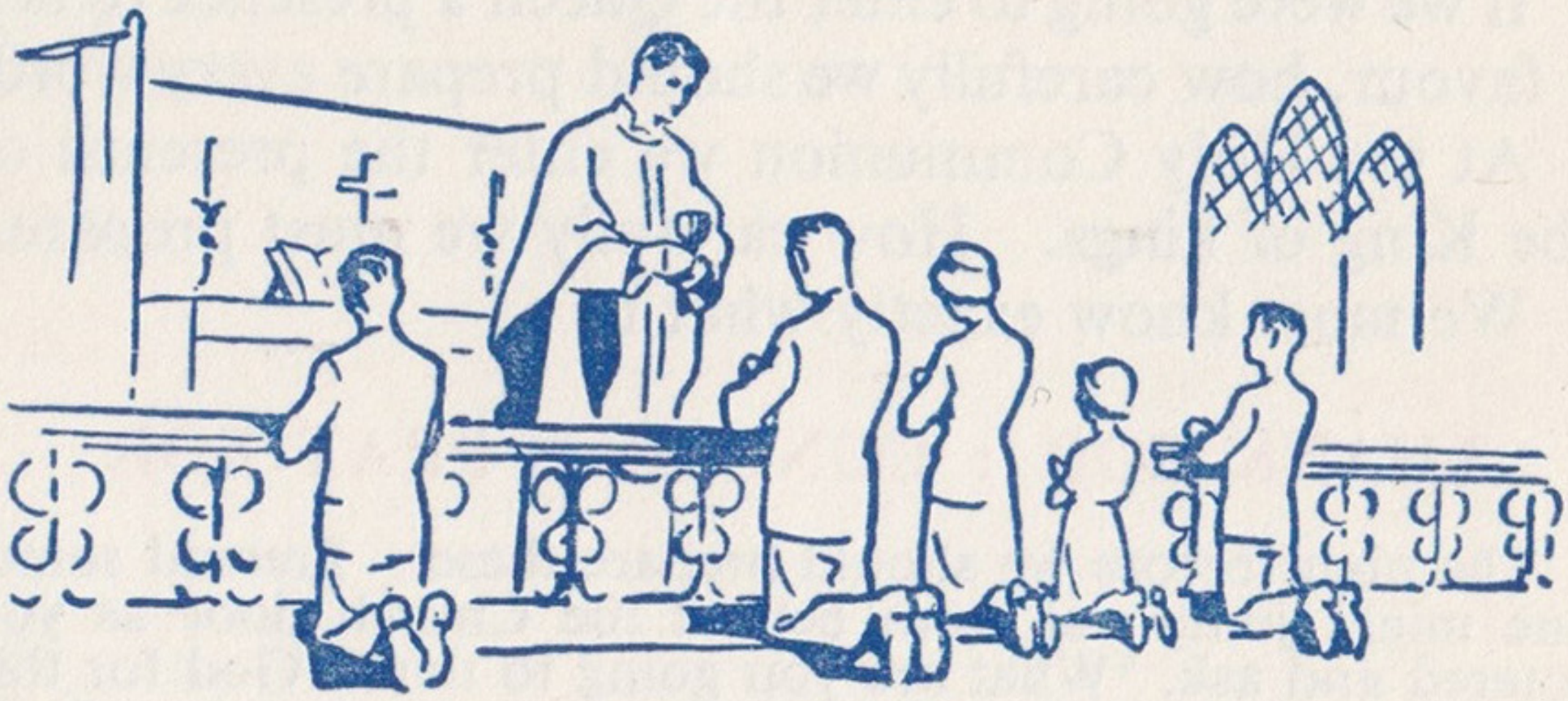
Because at **THE LORD'S SUPPER**

Jesus commanded us

DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME. In the Upper Room on Maundy Thursday night, immediately before He was betrayed, He took bread, gave thanks (as we would say Grace) brake it and gave it to His disciples and said: Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

is the most important worship of God's Family



Because in **THE LITURGY**

we present before the Father the Sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross. He died on Calvary for the whole world, for us men and for our salvation. In Heaven Jesus makes intercession for us. At Holy Communion we offer ourselves to God in union with our Lord.

Because **THE EUCHARIST**

means the Great Thanksgiving
and Jesus comes to us there
and we His Family are

IN HIS PRESENCE

in a more wonderful way than at any other time.

Your Vicar will show you how each name of the Lord's Own Service on these two pages points another meaning of our worship. Read about Holy Communion in the Catechism, too.

PREPARATION
FOR HOLY COMMUNION

If we were going to enter the Queen's presence to beg a favour, how carefully we should prepare every word.

At the Holy Communion we enter the presence of the King of kings. How carefully we must prepare.

We must know exactly what to

THANK FOR : CONFESS : PRAY FOR

The night before we should prepare these. Pretend someone might jump out from behind the Church door as you entered and ask, 'What are you going to thank God for this morning? To confess? What are you going to pray for?' Could you answer?

Having our THANKSGIVINGS, CONFESSIONS, and PETITIONS ready is to be well prepared.

Try writing these neatly on a small piece of paper. Take this in your Prayer Book to Church. It may look like this:

THANKSGIVING—Mother well again.
CONFESSION—Bad temper. Lies.
PRAY FOR——Do better at School.

Next week look at the last paper again. As a result, your new list may be:

THANKSGIVING—Happier at school. Better tempered.
CONFESSION—Another lie.
PRAY FOR—Truthfulness. Holiday for mother.

This system helps our prayers to play a real part in our life. Be sure to pray often for others, not just for yourself.

HOW WE ARE FORGIVEN

I. SELF-EXAMINATION
(or finding out our own sins)

In the Catechism it asks 'What is required of them who come to the Lord's Supper?' The answer is 'To examine themselves whether they repent them truly of their former sins . . .' You should read it carefully.

It is not always easy to remember all the sins we ought to ask God to forgive. There are the good things we have failed to do as well as the bad things we remember all too well. To stir up our conscience it is important 'to examine ourselves,' as the Prayer Book says, by using questions like these often. Then we know better what we have to own up to.

THE THINGS LEFT UNDONE

Have I omitted morning prayers?—evening prayers?

Have I kept Sunday holy?—stayed away from Church?

Have I prepared carefully for Holy Communion?

Have I read my Bible regularly?

Have I missed chances to do a kind act?—say a kind word?—stand up for my Faith?

Have I given a fair share of my money to the Church?

Have I helped at home as much as I could?

THINGS WE OUGHT NOT TO HAVE DONE

In Thought

Have I been jealous?—believed unkind stories about others?—hated others?

Have I been conceited?—spiteful?—unforgiving?

In Word

Have I used bad language?—sworn?—used God's name lightly?

Have I been untruthful?

Have I told tales about others?—boasted?

In Deed

Have I done my best at my work?—at school?—at home?

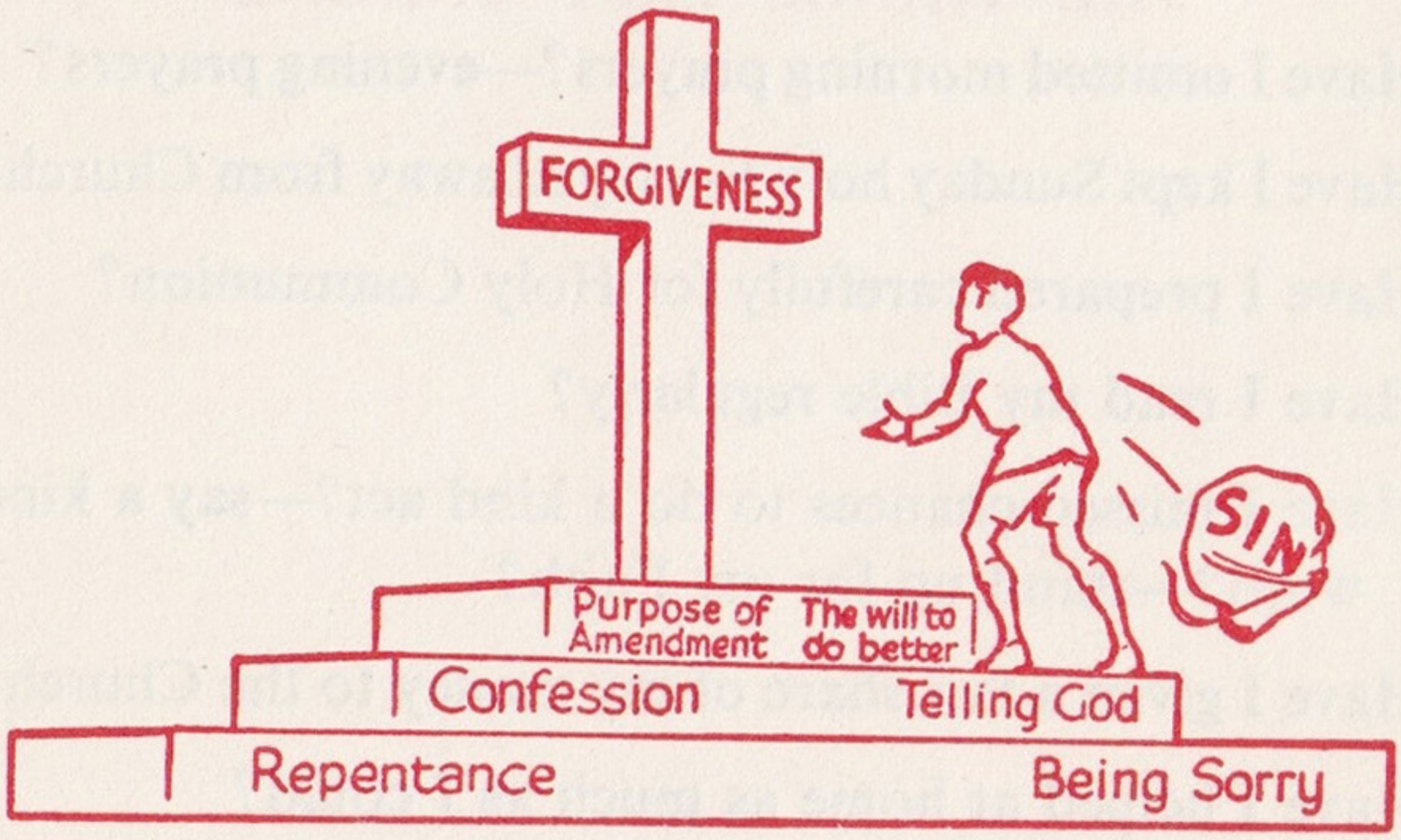
Have I stolen?—cheated?—broken my word?

Have I been bad-tempered?—grumbled?—quarrelled?

Have I been greedy?—tried to show off?—taken more than my share?

Have I been pure and clean and healthy in all that I do alone?—with others?

Have I been cruel to animals or hurt anyone?



II. CONFESSING
(Telling God our Sins)

After self-examination we should tell God our sins and ask Him to forgive them if we truly intend to be better in future with His help. We can tell God in our own words or we can use this age-old confession of the Church:

We confess to God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, through our own grievous fault, and especially (here tell God the sins self-examination has revealed). . . .

Almighty God have mercy upon us, forgive us all our sins and deliver us from evil, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and bring us to life everlasting. Amen.

Remember that, if you still feel unhappy or have a bad conscience, the Prayer Book bids you go to your Vicar, or another priest, and ask help. This is what the Prayer Book tells your Vicar to say to his people.

> If there be any of you who by this means (that is, self-examination and telling God our sins) cannot quiet his own conscience . . . let him come to me or to some other discreet and learned Minister of God's word, and open his grief; that by the ministry of God's holy word he may receive the benefit of absolution together with spiritual counsel and advice.

Don't be afraid to do this. Ask your Vicar about it.

HOW TO GO TO HOLY COMMUNION

Four good rules

EVERY SUNDAY

From the days of the disciples the Church has met on the first day of the week, the day Jesus rose from the dead, to obey the command He gave us 'Do this in remembrance of Me.' We are members of His Family and should obey.

WELL PREPARED

Preparing ourselves for Holy Communion is like putting on good clothes for a wedding. It would be insulting to our host to go dirty and anyhow. Jesus is our Host at the Holy Communion. He once sternly condemned a guest who had not bothered to put on a wedding garment. Nothing is more important than to be well prepared.

FASTING

The Bread and Wine, consecrated at the Altar with our Lord's own words, 'Take, eat; this is my Body which is given for you. This is my Blood which is shed for you,' are so precious that for centuries God's Family has made it a rule, for reverence' sake, that this food should be the first of the new day. We, too, for reverence' sake, should keep this rule of FASTING before communion. (A few who are not strong, or come a long way, may have to have a little food. A glass of water is sensible for all.)

EARLY

This rule is linked to the last. It would be hard to go fasting late in the morning. Put first things first. Communion is the most important event of Sunday. Let us go to it first. It is lovely in the early morning. Let us think about Jesus and go to meet Him early.

THE LORD'S OWN SERVICE

in

THE LORD'S OWN HOUSE

on

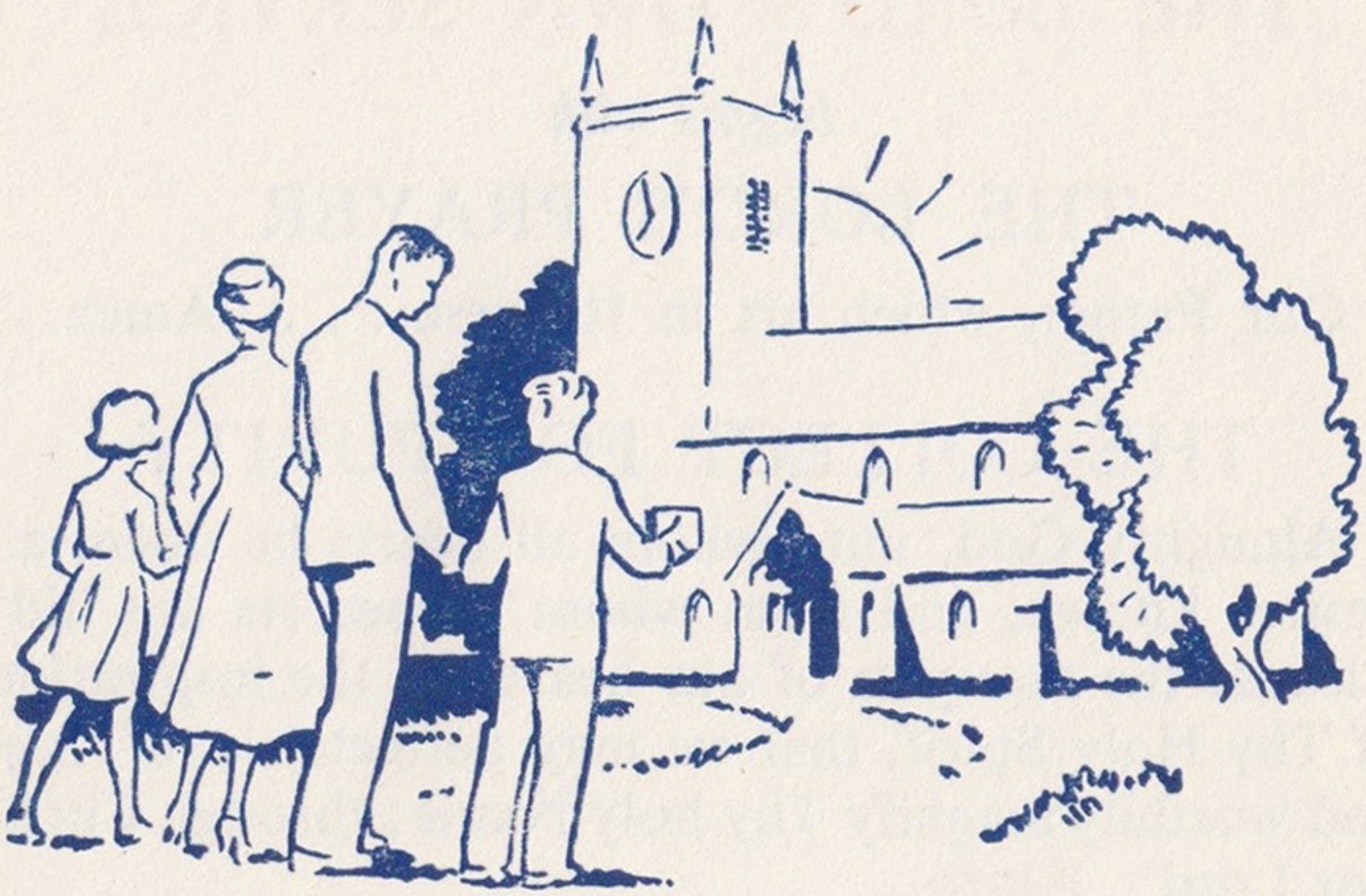
THE LORD'S OWN DAY

for

EVERY MEMBER OF

THE LORD'S OWN FAMILY

THE CHURCH



BEFORE THE SERVICE

Find the Collect, Epistle and Gospel for the day in your Prayer Book.

Kneel. Remember you have come to meet Jesus. Pray for the people around you and for the Priest. Think of your preparation and go over your special

THANKSGIVING

CONFESSION

PETITION

and bring each to our Lord.

When the Service begins, pray every word with the Priest. Say aloud the parts printed in red. Join in the Amens.

If the Service is Choral it will begin with a Hymn.
If not, we remain kneeling when the Priest enters.

THE LORD'S OWN SERVICE

begins with

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, which art in Heaven. . . . Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love Thee, and worthily magnify Thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Because all have sinned God's Laws are read and we ask His mercy.

After each say

Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

And after the tenth say

Lord, have mercy upon us, and write all these Thy laws in our hearts, we beseech Thee.

or instead

THE SUMMARY OF THE LAW

quoted by our Lord

People: Lord, have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.

or instead

THE LITTLE LITANY

Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Christ have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Priest may pray for the Queen and then says

THE COLLECT

or special prayer for that day.

The Apostles wrote letters to encourage the early Christians. These letters still help us now, so we sit to listen to

THE EPISTLE

(*A hymn called The Gradual may be sung*)

Our Lord's own words and works are more important than anything. So we stand reverently to hear the Gospel or Good News.

When the Gospel is announced say

Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL

after the Gospel say

Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Then, joyfully, we all affirm what we believe about God, and His Family the Church saying together

THE NICENE CREED

I BELIEVE in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible:

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation came down from heaven, And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, And was made man, And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, And ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead: Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I

believe one Catholick and Apostolick Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the Resurrection of the dead, And the Life of the world to come. Amen.

If there is a SERMON it follows now, and usually will explain the teaching of the Epistle or Gospel and the Christian Year. That the Prayer Book provides for a sermon at the Lord's Own Service teaches us the importance of the Ministry of the Word.

THE OFFERTORY

At the Offertory three things happen

ONE— Bread and Wine are placed on the Altar and offered to God.

These symbolise our daily life and work. We offer them now to God.

TWO— The Collection. We offer money for the needs of God's Family.

THREE— The Thanksgivings (from our preparation) are offered to God.

(A hymn may be sung)

THE PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH

Jesus sometimes spent whole nights in prayer. We are going to spend time bringing to God the needs of His Family the Church everywhere.

The Priest may ask special prayer for particular members of the Family.

Then he will say:

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church militant here in earth

As the Priest beseeches God you should too by saying silently 'Lord, hear this prayer' after each petition.

The Priest beseeches God — *Say silently*

For His blessing on our alms (money given) and oblations (the Bread and Wine) — **Lord, hear our prayer**

For the Universal Church — **Lord, hear our prayer**

That all may live in unity and godly love — **Lord, hear our prayer**

For the Queen — **Lord, hear our prayer**

For all in authority — **Lord, hear our prayer**

For the Bishops and Clergy — **Lord, hear our prayer**

For the congregation — **Lord, hear our prayer**

For all in sorrow and sickness — **Lord, hear our prayer**

For those who have died — **Lord, hear our prayer**

That we may follow their good examples and share His Kingdom — **Lord, hear our prayer**

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Now we think of the wonderful moment when we shall receive the Lord Jesus in the Holy Communion. We are invited to draw near with faith. But first we must confess our sins.

Ye that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins . . . and intend to lead a new life. . . . Draw near with faith and take this Holy Sacrament . . . and make your humble confession to Almighty God.

THE CONFESSION

We confess our sins to God—especially those which self-examination revealed at our Preparation. We are happy knowing that because we are trying to do better our heavenly Father will forgive and help us.

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed, By thought, word and deed, Against Thy Divine Majesty, Provoking most justly Thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, And are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; The remembrance of them is grievous unto us; The burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For Thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please Thee in newness of life, To the honour and glory of Thy Name. Through Jesus Christ our Lord Amen.

THE ABSOLUTION

God's wonderful answer of forgiveness to those who are sorry and are trying to do better.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father who of His great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto Him; Have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

(or Comfortable Words)

Wonderful words from the Bible. Listen and be very happy.

Hear what comfortable words our Saviour Christ saith unto all that truly turn to Him.

Come unto Me all that travail and are heavy laden and I will refresh you.

God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Hear also what Saint Paul saith.

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, That Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

Hear also what Saint John saith.

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He is the propitiation for our sins

LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS

Jesus Himself draws near to us and we to Him. First, we worship Him with all the members of His Family the Church, those on earth, those in paradise, and all the Holy Angels.

Priest: Lift up your hearts;

People: We lift them up unto the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God;

People: It is meet and right so to do,

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places, give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God. Therefore with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Thy glorious name; evermore praising Thee, and saying,

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts, Heaven and earth are full of Thy Glory; Glory be to Thee, O Lord Most High. Amen.

Jesus promised 'Where two or three are gathered together in My Name, there am I in the midst of them.' Because Jesus will be in our midst at Communion we praise Him as the children in Jerusalem did:

Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna in the Highest.

THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

Our Lord is so glorious and good, and we are so sinful. We must come unto His Presence very humbly and penitently.

We do not presume to come to this Thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in Thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under Thy Table. But Thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the Flesh of Thy dear Son, Jesus Christ, and to drink His Blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by His Body, and our souls washed through His most precious Blood, and that we may evermore dwell in Him, and He in us. **Amen.**

THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

We think again of His promise 'Where two or three are gathered together in My Name there am I in the midst.'

Jesus is with us. We bow our heads in wonder and love. The Priest will use the very words Jesus Himself used in the Upper Room.

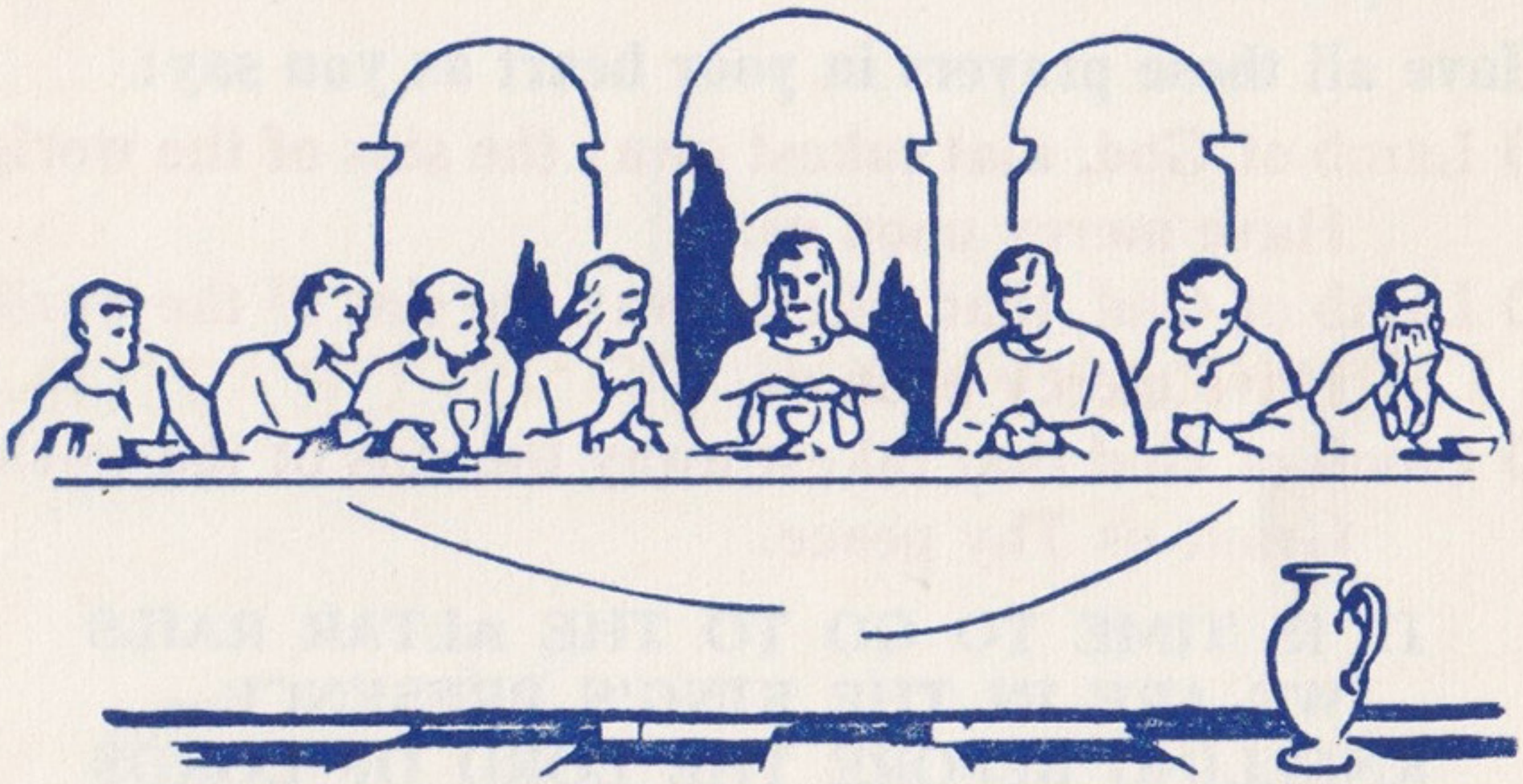
Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of Thy tender mercy didst give Thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made there (by His one oblation of Himself once offered) a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute and in His holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that His precious death, until His coming again;

Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly

beseech Thee; and grant that we receiving these Thy creatures of bread and wine, according to Thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of His death and passion, may be partakers of His most blessed Body and Blood:

Who, in the same night that He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks He brake it, and gave it to His disciples, saying,

TAKE, EAT,
THIS IS MY BODY WHICH IS GIVEN FOR YOU:
DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.



Likewise after supper He took the cup; and, when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying,

DRINK YE ALL OF THIS,
FOR THIS IS MY BLOOD OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, WHICH IS SHED FOR YOU AND FOR MANY FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS:
DO THIS, AS OFT AS YE SHALL DRINK IT, IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME. **Amen.**

COMMUNION

Jesus is with us. We are in His Presence.

In the silence we present before God the sacrifice of Jesus for us on the Cross.

We bring those special prayers the Priest asked when he bade us pray for 'The whole state of Christ's Church.'

We bring to Him our own special petitions from our Preparation.

Have all these prayers in your heart as you say:

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
Have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
Have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God that takest away the sins of the world,
Grant us Thy peace.

IT IS TIME TO GO TO THE ALTAR RAILS
WE ARE IN THE KING'S PRESENCE—
KNEELING BEFORE THE LORD OF LORDS

Say over and over again

Jesu, my Lord, I Thee adore;
O make me love Thee more and more.

Think of Jesus on the Cross and ask God to grant your prayers for His sake.

Here is the BREAD and WINE of which Jesus said,
This is my Body . . . This is my Blood.
Receive the Blessed Sacrament with reverence and awe.

Kneel when you get back to your place. You are in the King's Presence. Tell Him again your joys and hopes and cares.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Communion over, we sum up all our prayers and thanksgivings in the words Jesus taught us

Our Father, which art in Heaven . . . Amen.

THE PRAYER OF OFFERING (OBLATION)

(This prayer OR the next is said)

We offer ourselves, our whole lives, to God.

O Lord and Heavenly Father, we Thy humble servants entirely desire Thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching Thee to grant, that by the merits and death of Thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in His blood, we and all Thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of His passion.

And here we offer and present unto Thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and lively sacrifice unto Thee; humbly beseeching Thee, that all we, who are partakers of this Holy Communion, may be fulfilled with Thy grace and heavenly benediction.

And although we be unworthy through our manifold sins, to offer unto Thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech Thee to accept this our bounden duty and service; not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honour and glory be unto Thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

OR

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We thank God for this wonderful thing which has happened to us that we are very members of His Family, the Church.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank Thee, for that Thou dost vouchsafe to feed us, who have duly received these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of Thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of Thy favour and goodness towards us, and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of Thy Son, which is the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs through hope of Thy everlasting Kingdom, by the merits of the most precious death and passion of Thy dear Son. And we most humbly beseech Thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with Thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as Thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with Thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

With full hearts we worship and glorify God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, in one of the most ancient hymns of Christendom. We can almost hear the Christmas Angels praising Him too.

Glory be to God on High, and in earth peace, good will towards men, We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory, O Lord God, Heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only begotten son Jesu Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord; Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE BLESSING

We are sent home with the Blessing of God on our lives and His wonder and joy in our hearts.

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord:

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Before you leave the church, and when you get home, be sure to thank God for what has happened to you. A good 'Thank You' is to come to God's House for Evensong.

May this little book help you day by day
to be glad that you belong to

GOD'S FAMILY

We often forget our Heavenly Father, but
He never forgets us.
On the morning before the battle of Edgehill,
the Cavalier, Sir Jacob Astley, prayed:

Lord, I shall be very busy this day.
If I forget Thee, do not Thou forget me.

When you are older, this book's grown-up
brother

IN HIS PRESENCE

will help you to pray better and to love the
worship of

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